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March 24, 2020

James D. Fielder, PhD.  
Secretary of Higher Education  
Maryland Higher Education Commission  
6 N. Liberty St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Secretary Fielder,

I am writing to register Towson University's objection to the Notre Dame of Maryland University proposal to offer a Master of Science in Physician Assistant

Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13B.02.03.27B(3)(c) forms the basis for our objection, that this proposal constitutes 'unreasonable program duplication which would cause demonstrable harm to another institution'.

The addition of another Physician Assistant program will exacerbate the challenges associated with a severe lack of Physician Assistant faculty and create undue hardship with clinical education. Additionally, the program is two miles from Towson University's, and would be the fifth program of its kind in a relatively small state. Finally, it would undermine the university's planned request to increase its capacity.

Sincerely,

Melanie L. Perreault, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

MLP/mrf

cc: Dr. Antoinette Coleman, Associate Vice Chancellor for  
Academic Affairs, USM  
Dr. Karen Eskow, Interim Dean of Graduate Studies  
Dr. Lisa Plowfield, Dean, College of Health Professions  
Dr. Tab Uhrich, Associate Dean, College of Health Professions

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